



# Grass Roots Column

## A Publication of Lakeshore Garden Masters

[www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org](http://www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org)

July-August 2018



### Why Do We Garden?

There are many questions asked about gardening that are the obvious ones. We are asked How do you garden? Raised beds, containers, large scale or small farm. We are asked Where do you garden? Backyard, houseplants, community garden, rain garden, roadside garden, landscape garden. We are asked When to garden? Spring planting, indoor seed starting, fall bulb planting. We are asked what to garden? Vegetables, fruits, grasses, cover crops, trees and shrubs and flowers. These are the typical questions that most any gardener can answer quickly.

But are you asked why do you garden? Seems like an odd question to any gardener that toils long hours in the hot sun. Planting, pulling, pruning, and finally harvesting. The why of gardening is something that seems to gradually tiptoe into your life from some obscure event that triggered your fascination with watching things grow. Perhaps your grandmother had a garden with vegetables that she invited you to help with and you were introduced to your first bite of a perfectly ripened tomato still warm from the sun. Perhaps you were given a small paper cup of soil in school to plant grass seeds and one day when you checked your cup sitting on the sunny window sill you discovered tiny green shoots emerging from the black soil and you were smitten. Perhaps you lovingly picked handfuls of dandelions and violets to bring home to your mother who carefully placed them in a glass of water with pride. Whenever it happened to you, like me you knew you wanted more of this! This joy in caring for plants and watching them grow. This mystery of how a tiny seed becomes a six foot tall sunflower. The pride in planting, growing and harvesting vegetables to eat at dinnertime. The awe of watching a flower bud unfold one day when it wasn't there yesterday.

These are the small miracles that motivate gardeners every year. Why we garden I believe is twofold. First is the selfish "why" that no matter what the weather, we will set the garden with the things we love for sheer joy of exceeding last year's garden successes. We take chances with little known varieties of plants that should not typically grow in our climate and revel with excitement when we see the plant thrive. We could be in secret competition with a neighbor for the best lawn or flower garden. The second reason why we garden is the pride of sharing our knowledge and success with others. We want everyone to experience the joy of a bountiful harvest after long hours of hard work or cleaning the dirt out from under fingernails or wiping the sweat from your eyes or tending to scratches from thorny branches and bites from insects. This is sheer joy! Can't everyone see this?

I garden for all these reasons and am proud to say I have been an addict for decades. I can't get enough of it; I long for it all winter. I tend to my houseplants while the snow howls outside and long for a fix of smelling the warm earth. Why I garden is obvious to me and many out there like me. We can't stop. It's in our blood and deep in our soul. We want everyone to know of our addictive joy and our eagerness to pass it along to the younger ones to set the same seed in their soul.

Let this be a challenge to everyone. Show a younger person how to grow things. It's not difficult because they will quickly see the pride and joy in your eyes as your hands carefully set a plant into the soil. Do it because this is why you love gardening. Do it to share your joy!

Proud gardening addict,  
Susan Thorpe, President



## LGM Purpose

The purpose of the Lakeshore Garden Masters is to bring together gardeners for fellowship, plant exchange, educational programs, and support for volunteer garden projects.

## July at Cherry Point Farm

**July 23 – Visit *Cherry Point Farm/ Market and Lavender Labyrinth*** 9600 W. Buchanan Road, Shelby, MI (See pg. 4)



## Food Safety in August

**August 27 - AMG Developments**, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Presenter is Jane Hart, Food Safety MSUE Educator, Health and Nutrition Institute on “**Blanching and Freezing Foods**” (See pg. 4)



## Calendar of Events

**July 10** - Monet Garden 5 PM-7 PM

**July 23** - LGM Meeting at Cherry Point Farm (See Pg. 4)

**July 26**- Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM

**August 7** - Monet Garden 5 PM-8 PM

**August 23** - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM

**August 27** - LGM Meeting at AGM 6 PM

**September 4** - Monet Garden 5 PM-8 PM

**September 14,15** - Master Gardener College

**September 20** - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM

**September 24** – LGM meeting at Gavin Apple Orchard (See pg. 4)

**October 2**- Monet Garden - 5 PM-8 AM

**October 18** – Monet Garden - 10 AM-1 PM

## 2018 Leadership Council Officers

**President:** Susan Thorpe  
holbox04@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Jean Baker  
Baker2j63@gmail.com

**Recording/Corresponding Secretary:** Sue Fiebelkorn [Sfeebe5@comcast.com](mailto:Sfeebe5@comcast.com)

**Treasurer:** Sharon Rubelman  
onesister123@gmail.com

## Trustees

**Michael Belt**  
[michael.belt@comcast.net](mailto:michael.belt@comcast.net)

**David Mellema**  
[Djmellema@msn.com](mailto:Djmellema@msn.com)

**Dick/Barb Jorgensen**  
[Dbgardens@outlook.com](mailto:Dbgardens@outlook.com)

## Committee Chairpersons

**Monet Garden**-Linda Hecksel  
[Hecksel@aol.com](mailto:Hecksel@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor**-Marsha Green  
[greendooredu1@comcast.net](mailto:greendooredu1@comcast.net)

**Webmaster**-Marsha Green  
[greendooredu1@comcast.net](mailto:greendooredu1@comcast.net)

**Membership**--Susan Thorpe  
holbox04@gmail.com

**Plant Sharing**-Jean Baker  
Baker2j63@gmail.com

## Plant Sharing Rules

1. Bring a plant; take a plant
2. Bring healthy plants with no disease or insects attached!
1. Label everything
2. Put seeds/bulbs in a zip-lock or envelope
4. Bring plants in a sturdy container; plus a container to take home plants
5. New LGM members are encouraged to participate.



## Minutes of the General Meeting of Lakeshore Garden Master-June 25, 2018

The June meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by President Susan Thorpe at White Lake Community Library. There were 15 people in attendance, including 2 guests. The next meeting is July 23 at Cherry Point Farm, 9600 W. Buchanan Rd, Shelby, Michigan. Meet there at 10am for a tour and talk about the Lavender Labyrinth. We will have lunch there after the tour.

Here is the Treasurer's Report as of June 11, 2018. Lakeshore Garden Master's checking account balance is \$3,274.39 which includes \$78.91 for the Monet Garden (from donations). There was \$3.00 of expenses from the Bank Service Charge. The Monet Garden account has \$216.23. Recent expenses include \$260.00 for pond maintenance and \$259.00 for a sign for the speaker post.

Susan spoke about the Monet Garden improvement needs. She received an estimate of \$10,000 for concrete pathways in the garden. This project, as well as tree removal, will be scheduled in the fall to minimize impact in the garden. She will be meeting with Don Hagstrom, who will repair the damaged boards on the bridge.



Susan then introduced the 20K for 20 Capital Campaign to obtain money for the above improvements. Our endowment fund through the Community Foundation has \$18,000. We may spend the fund down to \$10,000 but this will impact our current high interest rate. We hope to have all improvements completed by June, 2020. We will have a 20 year celebration of the Monet Garden at that time.

The sound post has been updated with a new picture on it.

A Monet Garden sign-up sheet was passed around. Linda Hecksel puts the name of volunteers in a pot. Names get drawn for prizes at the last meeting of the year.

We are still selling engraved bricks for \$50. Monet Garden tee shirts are \$10.

Susan introduced Eric Nelson, Landscape Designer, Certified Nurseryman and Lecturer from Weesies Brothers Garden Center. Eric gave an excellent presentation about Roses. He spoke about four different groups of roses with plenty of diversity, easy care, and low risk of damage and disease. These types are David Austin Roses, Easy Elegance Roses, Drift Roses and Oso Easy Roses. He also talked about various diseases and insect problems with roses. He brought beautiful roses for us to admire.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Susan Fiebelkorn, Secretary



Spring 2018-Picture shows pathway degradation.



## LAKE SHORE GARDEN MASTERS 2018 Calendar of Events

Dues \$15.00/year or \$5.00/event as guest

Lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Contact: Susan Thorpe 248-310-2312 for info

**July 23** – at **Cherry Point Farm/Market** and **Lavender Labyrinth** 9600 W. Buchanan Road, Shelby. Arrive at 10 AM for a guided tour and talk on the Lavender Labyrinth. Lunch will follow. Plan on carpooling. Sandwiches, soups and salads available for purchase inside, as well as desserts. RSVP required by July 19.

**August 27** – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Presenter is Jane Hart, Food Safety MSUE Educator, Health and Nutrition Institute on **“Blanching and Freezing Foods”**. Learn what equipment to use, what things freeze well and a variety of tips on any type of home food preservation. Potluck starts at 6 PM, if you wish to join us bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. Program begins at 6:45 PM.

**September 24** – at **Gavin Apple Orchard**, 16495 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Coopersville, MI. More details to follow!

**October 22 Meeting and Elections!** – at AMG Developments, 800 Ellis Road, Norton Shores. Meeting begins at 6 PM with Election of Officers and Awards for LGM. Followed by presenter Marsha Green, Master Gardener, on **The Gardens in Alhambra**, (Grenada) Spain. Potluck starts at 6:00 for everyone, please bring a dish to pass, your beverage and table setting. This is our last meeting of the year!



LGM President, Susan Thorpe

### Obtaining Educational Credits

Hello gardeners! We have been working with MSUE on obtaining educational credits for our speakers at our meetings so that all of our current Master Gardeners can get the benefit of one credit hour when attending our meetings!

Also, Master Gardeners can obtain volunteer hours when working at the Monet Garden in Muskegon. Simply enter your hours on the VMS website from MSUE. If you are not familiar with this process, contact me. Its really simple to do!

So, for our June 25 meeting on "Roses, What's New?" you can receive one hour educational credit. When signing into the VMS system use the drop down menu and enter the hours under Environmental Stewardship: IPM and Pollinators.

## Minutes from LGM Meeting

May 29, 2018 meeting (rescheduled from May 21<sup>st</sup> due to rain)

Present: Lorraine Parrish, Barb and Dick Jorgensen, Christine Sutton, Jean Freye, Linda Hecksel, Marsha Green, Jean Baker, Susan Thorpe

Monet updates from Linda:

Water fountain working and repaired, Pond is open, Repeater Sound Box is in process of completion with Tim Achterhoff donating his vocal talent and Graphics House working on the photo. Irrigation system is repaired, painting of metal trellis' and obelisks done and paint donated by Jean Baker. Bridge needs boards replaced, but it's complicated. Lattice needs to be replaced with something low maintenance. Its suggested plastic lattice at \$90/panel 4 X 8. Suggested to remove the willow that is failing and the 2 flowering pear trees. Linda will provide a complete wish list for Monet. It was suggested that a rose expert help in the proper trimming/shaping of the climbers.



Susan reported that the Monet Garden is certified as a volunteer site to accrue MG hours and our educational presentations are certified for educational hours starting with the Rose presentation in June. Former master gardeners that may be interested in being recertified was brought up. Since this meeting Susan has

been informed by MSUE that these inactive master gardeners would in fact need to retake the entire class.

Susan read Florence Bright-Stahl's presentation from early 2000 that she gave to Women's Club and Chamber when the Monet was getting started. Great history here!

It was suggested that United Way should have the Monet Garden scheduled workdays on their website for the community to utilize.

Since this meeting Marsha Green has accomplished this!

Career Tech Center has a horticultural program for students that could work in the garden. This needs to be followed up on.



Larger local firms such as Muskegon and Baker Colleges, Shape Corp., etc may offer employees paid time or in class credit to volunteer in the community. The Criminal Court system can use sites to have probated individuals do community service. Jean Freye will investigate this option.

Jean Freye brought the green watering can that she won at the end of last year and planted it with flowers to be raffled off. The idea is that the person that won would bring it back next year, planted, to do the same. Great idea!

Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Submitted by,  
Susan Thorpe, President

Don't forget to check FACEBOOK for both the Lakeshore Garden Masters page and also the Monet Garden page. Feel free to post on these pages and share with interested friends.



## Monet Garden Speaker Stand Updated

The speaker stand at the Monet Garden has a new look and sound. Rain, snow, and time (eighteen years) has taken its toll on the original stand. Dave Green contacted the company and handled all the replacement issues. Tim Achterhoff volunteered his voice on the updated messages. Graphics House replaced the message board and updated it with weatherproof technology.



## Special Thank You to Friends of the Monet Garden

The following business donated to the Monet Garden:

Twin Lake Greenhouse-annuals  
Barry's Greenhouse-Gift card  
Garden Crossing-Gift card  
Weesies Brothers Garden Center-Gift card

Please thank these businesses for their support of the Monet Garden and Lakeshore Garden Masters.

## Monet Garden Work Schedule for 2018

**July 10** - Monet Garden 5 PM-8 PM

**July 26**- Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM

**August 7** - Monet Garden 5 PM-8 PM

**August 23** - Monet Garden 10 AM-1 PM

**September 4** - Monet Garden 5 PM-8 PM

**October 2**- Monet Garden - 5 PM-8 AM

**October 18** – Monet Garden - 10 AM-1 PM

Email Linda Hecksel for more information or if you want to work at other times  
hecksel@aol.com

## Lakeshore Garden Master Dues

Dues for the Lakeshore Garden Masters organization are due yearly from January 1-December 31. They may be prepaid at the October meeting or paid at the March meeting. Cost of the dues is \$15.00. Late dues should be mailed to:

Sharon Rubelman  
1599 N. Peterson Rd  
North Muskegon, MI 49445

## Lakeshore Garden Master Membership

Lakeshore Garden Masters' organization is open to anyone who enjoys gardening. Meetings are once a month and open to members and guests. The get-togethers usually include a potluck, a short business meeting, and a speaker with timely information that pertains to gardens and gardening. Lakeshore Garden Master members also maintain the Monet Garden in downtown Muskegon.

## Membership Information

Please Print Clearly

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$15.00 for Year \_\_\_\_\_ Paid in Cash Paid By Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Dues Received By \_\_\_\_\_

Can also mailed to: **Sharon Rubelman 1599 Peterson Rd. North Muskegon, MI 49445**



## Monet Garden Gets A Makeover!

Our leadership team has met and discussed the major needs of the Monet Garden as she is now in her 18<sup>th</sup> year. The many gardeners that have worked diligently in the garden continue to make a difference as evidenced by the ongoing display of flowers. Go to the Monet Garden Facebook page (Monet Garden of Muskegon, MI) to see recent photos. However, the structural needs cannot be done by gardeners.

The garden paths are deteriorating and the stones have all but disappeared. It is now just an unappealing dirt path. The ornamental pear trees that were planted 18 years ago have outgrown their space and creating too much shade for flowering plants. The pond is in need of larger stones/boulders to surround it that cannot be moved. The footbridge needs a few boards replaced and then repainted. While our gardeners and their husbands have graciously done as much as possible we need a serious influx of funds to complete other tasks.

On June 11, 2018 the leadership team approved the **“20 for 20” Campaign**. (\$20K for 20 years of the garden.) This is what we estimate the cost will be for these repairs. While the Monet Garden has an endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Muskegon it is not enough to cover the repairs needed without completely depleting that source. It is our intention to celebrate the Monet Garden's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the year 2020 and we want the garden to sparkle for that event. Therefore, we are accepting donations large and small to begin the campaign. Donations will be tax-deductible because they will be made to the Community Foundation of Muskegon for the Monet Fund.

Many of our former donors from when the garden began have been contacted and they are thrilled that the garden is in good hands and moving forward. Wouldn't you like to be a part of this great cause?! So as you think about a donation, remember this can be done in honor of someone, or in memory of someone, for a wedding gift, birthday gift for that hard to buy for person, or as an end of the year donation for tax purposes. Larger givers of \$2500 or more will be recognized with their name engraved on our boulder as you enter the garden as was done eighteen years ago.

To donate online go to: <https://muskegonfoundation.org/give/give-now/> and search for Monet Fund in the Specific Funds Box. Or by mail: Community Foundation for Muskegon County, 425 W. Western Ave. Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49440. Or by phone: 231-722-4538.

### Monet Garden Endowment Fund

In 1962, Decca Recording Company rejected the Beatles saying, "We don't like their sound and guitar music is on the way out"

The future is hard to predict. But one thing we do know is that we will need resources to keep the Monet Garden pristine in the years to come. That's why we created the Monet Garden Endowment Fund in 2001 at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Our fund is professionally invested for the long term and each year 4% of the average fund balance is available to us to support our ongoing needs which amounts to about \$600 per year. The Foundation handles all administrative details and investment responsibilities for our fund.

Several of our longtime donors believe in the importance of the Monet Garden and donate to our fund yearly. We hope you too will consider playing a part in our future by donating to the Community Foundation of Muskegon for the Monet Garden of Muskegon. To learn more contact Heidi Systema at 231-332-4107 or [hsytsema@cffmc.org](mailto:hsytsema@cffmc.org).

## History of Monet Garden and How it Came to Muskegon

Claude Monet was an impressionist artist and avid gardener in Giverny, France. As an artist he was born in 1840. Too early for the heart of the Dark Ages artistic style which was dark and dreary. Monet's work was light, airy, and sunlit. So he was snubbed and starved. He spent 70 years challenging himself to perfect his work on some 3000 canvases using his ephemeral eye for nature. He was a master at gardening as well and created the Monet Garden in France.

In 1883, his friend and art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel traveled to America with Monet's canvases and displayed them in Chicago and New York. American's loved his work and saved the day!

After Monet's death in 1926 the gardens gradually fell into disrepair without the master's touch. While his stepdaughter attempted to care for the garden until her death in 1947 and a son who did very little until his death where upon he bequeathed the property to France. However, the garden was an embarrassment to France, so turned to Gerald Van der Kamp who along with his American wife masterminded the restoration by placing the Giverny under the umbrellas of the Versailles Foundation. This made it possible for Americans to make tax deductible donations to Giverny. Van der Kamp lunched with Lila Acheson Wallace, co-founder of the Readers Digest and she handed him a check for one million dollars for the garden. The garden was then brought back to life and reopened to the public in 1980. Today it remains an artist's garden attracting over 500,000 visitors a year.

Florence Bright-Stahl believed a tiny version of this garden was possible in Muskegon. Especially with Muskegon's "French Connection" when it came under French rule in 1654. Maps confirm that Muskegon and West Michigan were known to French Voyageurs. Muskegon River is charted on Parisian maps as early as 1688. And, many names reflect the French influence such a Pierre, Espirit, Father Marquette, LaSalle, Champlain. The French then migrated to Michigan because of the abundance of fur pelts available and trading posts were established on Muskegon Lake by 1810. With the fall of Quebec in 1759, the French lost the Great Lakes region to the British which brought the Victorian influence and architecture to Muskegon.



Florence owned one of the beautiful Victorian homes in Muskegon and painted it pink. Known today as the Pink Lady. Adjacent to her home was an empty lot begging to be made beautiful. She approached the City of Muskegon with a proposal that if they purchased the land for a garden, she and the Muskegon Master Gardeners and MSUE would create the Monet Garden for all to enjoy. That was in 2000 with the goal for it to be a teaching garden. A tool for art, history and horticulture and a place to stop for peaceful reflection. Today the Monet Garden is still carefully and lovingly tended by many gardening volunteers and will for many years to come with the help of the Lakeshore Garden Masters.



# MONET GARDEN, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN PAVER PROJECT

**Yes, I want to be an enduring part of this historic endeavor. Here is my pledge.**

Just print this page and mail it with your pledge to the address below. if you are unable to visit the garden, you will soon be able to view the installed and inscribed pavers on this web site.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of standard 4" X 8" paver(s) @ \$ 50.00 each

## **Inscription for paver**

( 3 lines of 12 spaces ea. paver )

Paver one


Paver two


**Linda Hecksel, Chairperson Monet Garden  
2181 Green Creek Road  
Muskegon, MI 49445**



**DATE: Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14-15**

**LOCATION: Wayne County Community College District, Belleville, Mich.**

### **MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

The 2018 Master Gardener College Planning Committee is excited to announce this year's nationally renowned keynote speakers featured on Saturday, September 15th:

**William (Bill) Cullina, Executive Director/President, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Boothbay, ME - *Sugar, Sex and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera*** - Mr. Cullina is an accomplished horticulturist and outstanding photographer, author, lecturer. During this thought-provoking presentation, he will share how a world of pollen, poisons, pigments, pheromones, sugars and sex translates to sound gardening practices from which we can all benefit.

**Karl Gercens III, Conservatory Horticulturist, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania—*Inspire ME!*** - Mr. Gercens' horticultural passion extends worldwide with frequent visits to public and private gardens in all 50 states and over 20 countries! With the goal of inspiring other gardeners, Karl chronicles and shares his travels through vibrant and vivid digital photographs. Karl also integrates many of these new ideas into the exquisite conservatory displays at the world-renowned Longwood Gardens.

Learn more about both of these exciting keynote speakers at the Keynote Speaker page of the Master Gardener College website.

Check the 2018 Master Gardener College website often as we continue to update the site as more details are confirmed.

Stay tuned for the next update on the Volunteer Project Sharing Forum! Be sure to start thinking about which volunteer project you want to share with your fellow Extension Master Gardeners at Master Gardener College.

Plan now to join us - September 14 and 15!